

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Sixteenth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.5% (2,971) reside in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (565) of Sixteenth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 76.3% of admissions from the Sixteenth Essex Representative District were male and 23.7% were female.
- Over 63.1% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 45.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.2% were black non-Latino, 47.6% were Latino, 0.4% were Asian, and 3.7% were other racial categories.
- 64.1% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.9% were married, and 13.9% reported not to be married now.
- 44.1% of admissions had less than high school education, 43.1% completed high school, and 12.8% had more than high school education.
- 25.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 19.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.6% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

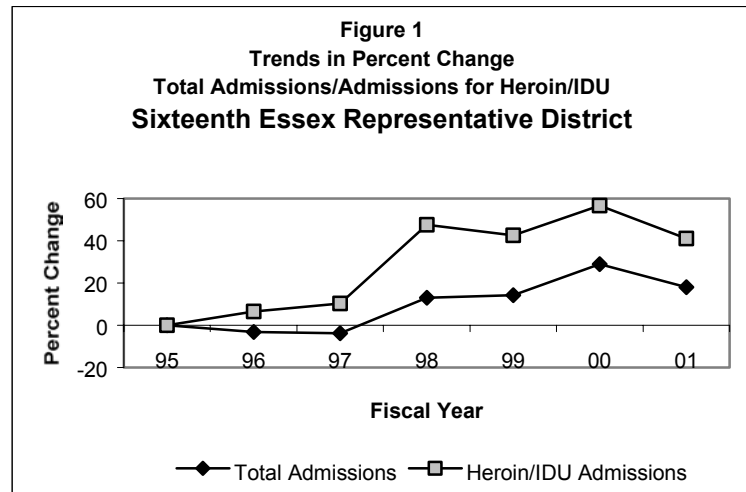
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Sixteenth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,518	1,643	695	832	827	1,168	696
FY '96	2,437	1,646	728	698	689	1,225	760
FY '97	2,422	1,501	580	664	581	1,249	806
FY '98	2,846	1,666	730	765	483	1,632	1,118
FY '99	2,876	1,651	779	881	535	1,616	1,043
FY '00	3,245	1,951	981	997	616	1,730	1,190
FY '01	2,971	1,701	799	909	447	1,605	1,025

- Since FY 1995, residents of Sixteenth Essex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 45%, while heroin use increased by 37%.
- Between FY 1997 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 13%, marijuana by 37%, and cocaine use by 36%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 18% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 41%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixteenth Essex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	26.9%	54.6%	6.9%	4.7%	3.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin, marijuana, and cocaine as a primary drug was higher, and alcohol was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000